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The Signal



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News UPDATE

AMEDD birthday

The Army Medical Department and the AMEDD Regiment at Eisenhower Army Medical Center is having an AMEDD Regimental Ball today. This year's theme is "Celebrating Freedom."

During the ball there will be an induction ceremony for new members of the Order of Military Medical Merit, a formal welcome home to soldiers who have returned from Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom, and a special tribute to the AMEDD Medal of Honor recipients.

Tickets are available during lunch in front of Ike's Cafe in the medical center. Call 787-5301 for information.

School screenings

School screenings will be held at the Primary Care Clinic from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. **July 26**, and **Aug. 2** and **9**. This is a one-time screening required for all students entering Georgia public schools for the first time.

Parents should bring their ID Card, medical records (if not kept at Eisenhower), shot records, eye glasses, hearing aids, medical stamp card and medical power of attorney (if applicable).

To make an appointment or for information, call the Family Practice Clinic at 787-7300. For sports physicals, contact your primary care physician.

Change of command

The 93rd Signal Brigade will conduct a Brigade Change of Command ceremony at the Barton Field Reviewing Stand at 8 a.m. **July 25**.

Outgoing commander Col. Daniel Gerstein, will relinquish command to Col. Nathaniel Smith. For more information, call Maj. Tina Schreiner or Staff Sgt. Kelly McCargo at 791-9309.

Volunteers needed

The next Dental Assistant Program course begins in October. Candidates must be a currently registered Red Cross volunteer with 100 hours or more of volunteer service.

The first step in becoming a Red Cross volunteer is to attend Red Cross Orientation. The next orientation is **Tuesday**, 9-11 a.m. Call 787-6311 to register.

Heat alert

Caution is key during the dog days of summer as temperatures and the heat index soar. Outdoor activities and training require extra vigilance to guard against heat injuries. Plan activities accordingly, take rest breaks and drink plenty of water.



Fourth fun

Seth Dehamer of Augusta pets a miniature horse July 3 at the Fort Gordon Independence Day celebration. The annual event drew thousands of people from across the CSRA for fireworks, carnival rides, concerts and a petting zoo. For more photos, see page 8A.

e-MILPO debuts Aug. 1

Military personnel transactions halted July 16 through 31

Staff Sgt. Stacy Wamble

Signal military editor

The Fort Gordon Military Personnel Division will not process any personnel actions from July 16-31.

Transactions will resume Aug. 1 with the transfer to e-MILPO, or the Electronic Military Personnel Office.

During the blackout period unit personnel specialists will manually track all transactions so they can be input on Aug. 1, according to Nora Bernhardt, chief of the Personnel Automation Branch.

Fort Gordon personnel specialists will complete the web-based training today and will have

immediate access to update e-MILPO with transactions Aug. 1, said Bernhardt.

e-MILPO is a web-based personnel database that will replace SIDPERS and the Superserver, and is the forerunner of the Defense Integrated Military Human Resource System, which will track personnel records of all the services, according to Bernhardt. DIMHRS is scheduled to be fielded in 2004.

"Army is the first service that will roll over to DIMHRS and the other services will follow," she said.

With e-MILPO the Army will go from 43 separate databases to one database that can be accessed by authorized users anytime of the day, according to Bernhardt. Users will have access to information pertinent to them. For instance, a user at 551st Signal Battalion will have access to personnel records of individuals assigned to the 551st.

"Units will be limited to information based on (unit identification codes) for what they

See *e-MILPO*, page 3A

Franks steps down as U.S. Central Command lead

Tech. Sgt. Chris Miller

USAF 6th Air Mobility Wing

TAMPA, Fla. — Gen. John P. Abizaid assumed command of U.S. Central Command from Gen. Tommy R. Franks Monday during a ceremony at the St. Pete Times Forum.

Franks has served as commander since June 2000. During his time, he commanded operations against terrorism in Afghanistan and Iraq. Abizaid served as the Central Command's deputy commander.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld officiated the ceremony while Marine Corps Gen. Peter Pace, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, also attended.

Rumsfeld used the occasion to praise the men and women of the command. "From the Horn of Africa to the mountains of Afghanistan and the heat of Iraq, troops of this command are serving the cause of freedom with dedication and distinction," he said. "We thank each of you for all you do for our country."

Rumsfeld praised Franks for being "a soldier's soldier." He said Franks embodies the qualities needed in war: "strength, experience, a keen mind, good humor, energy, honor, a deep loyalty for his troops and his country."

Rumsfeld said Franks' service would have a lasting impact on the U.S. armed forces.

The secretary praised Abizaid as "the leader for the 21st century," and called on him to "do our country proud as we know you will."

After the transfer of the command flag, Abizaid thanked Franks for his leadership and confidence. "Today, one of the world's greatest soldiers turns over command," Abizaid said. "General Franks, thank you for your extraordinary service to the nation in both peace and war."

Franks retires following 38 years of service. He has commanded at every level in the Army, and defense officials

said he is one of the most innovative commanders in the business.

Abizaid said the greatest honor for any soldier is to command the sons and daughters of America.

"It is a particular honor to embark upon this command in time of war," he said. "Central Command will continue to take the fight to the enemy on his ground. We will continue to do our work with our friends and allies to defeat our mortal enemies."

Abizaid thanked all the service men and women for their devotion to duty. "It is their untiring efforts that will preserve the freedom we so rightly cherish," he said.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Steve Faulisi

Gen. Tommy Franks retires after 38 years of service.



Center for Disease Control photo

Mosquitoes breed near standing water. Residents can help prevent breeding sites by eliminating standing or pooling water.

West Nile hits early, Fort Gordon ready

Staff Sgt. Stacy Wamble

Signal military editor

Picnics, sunbathing, swimming and cycling are all activities on the increase with the warm weather. And as the temperature rises, so does the number of accidents, and snake and mosquito bites.

With the appearance of mosquitoes comes the threat of the West Nile Virus. West Nile Virus is a virus commonly found in Africa, West Asia, and the Middle East, which first appeared in the United States in 1999. The virus can infect humans, birds, mosquitoes, horses and some other mammals.

This year WNV activity has been confirmed in birds, horses, mosquitoes or humans in 28 states as of July 7, according to the Center for Diseases Control Web site. There has been a confirmed human case in South Carolina.

In 2002, there were nearly 4,000 reported cases of WNV human infection, with the virus reaching 44 states.

The virus can cause encephalitis, inflammation of the brain and is characterized by flu-like symptoms including fever, headache, and body aches, occasionally with a skin

rash on the trunk of the body and swollen lymph glands.

The symptoms of severe infection include headache, high fever, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness and paralysis. It is estimated that one in 150 persons infected with WNV will develop a more severe form of the disease, according to the CDC Web site.

Since there is currently no cure or vaccine for WNV, prevention is key.

"We all know that West Nile is here. It is an illness or disease that is caused by mosquitoes," said Lt. Col. Johnny Morgan, Southeast Regional Medical Command preventive medicine officer. "So, what we have tried to do is to notify the public in regard to how to prevent mosquitoes from populating in the area and of course result in the possibility of carrying the disease and spreading it to soldiers or family members on post and also in our community."

One prevention measure is to eliminate breeding sites—primarily standing or pooling water, according to Morgan.

"If we keep those things

See *Virus*, page 3A

Keane: Army has more world policing to do

MOSUL, Iraq— Acting Chief of Staff Gen. John Keane, told soldiers who want to know when they are going home, that there is much work in the world to do to get rid of tyrants and thugs.

“We have to be honest with ourselves,” Keane said. “We’ve been on an operational treadmill since 1989, beginning with Operation Just Cause in Panama.”

Since the ousting of dictator Manuel Noriega, the U.S. has sent major contingents to the Middle East during the first Gulf War, then to Somalia, Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan, and yet again to the Middle East for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

“What we do know is that about every 18 months, somebody is going to do something that will require military intervention,” Keane said.

Keane stressed that there is no predictability in such post-Cold War operations involving tyrants and thugs who impose their malevolent will on their own people and neighbors.

Keane added that there would be more years of conflict with terrorists and rogue governments.

“We’ve got about six more years dealing with these guys,” Keane said.

The next operation on the horizon, is that President

George W. Bush is considering deploying troops to Liberia, Keane said.

“What we have here is a failed state,” Keane said. “They have not had electricity or running water in the capital since 1990.”

As a result of the country’s poverty and disorganization, said Keane, any future involvement in Liberia would be less of a fighting mission and more of a stability operation.

Keane spoke to members of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), out of Fort Campbell, Ky. Keane’s visit began with an aerial tour of Mosul followed by a briefing on the northern area of operations, given by Maj. Gen. David H. Petraeus, 1st Abn. Div. commander.

Many Screaming Eagles wanted to know when they would be returning home.

“I cannot tell you because I do not know,” said Keane. “What I can tell you is that we have got to stabilize. Everything that we are doing now is just as important as when we were pulling triggers.”

There are 33 active brigades in the Army, 16 of which are in Iraq.

There are three brigades in Afghanistan and one in Kosovo.

Three are tied up in the Stryker brigade transforma-



Photo by Spc. Robert Woodward

Acting Chief of Staff Gen. John Keane is briefed on the northern area of operations in Iraq by Maj. Gen. David H. Petraeus, the 101st Abn. Div. commander.

tion, and two more in Korea can’t be moved anywhere. That leaves two in Hawaii, three in Europe, and another three at Fort Hood, Texas.

During Keane’s visit he presented Silver Stars to two division soldiers.

Lt. Col. Stephen Schiller, commander, 2nd Battalion, 17th Cavalry

Regiment, and Staff Sgt. Walter E. Wolfe, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, received the award for gallantry during battles in Karbala and El Hillah, respectively.

Keane, who earned the Silver Star as a company commander in the 101st during Vietnam, told soldiers they have carried on a legacy that began on D-Day during World War II when 6,000 troopers parachuted behind enemy lines in Normandy.

“What was unique about that operation was that the soldiers, sergeants and officers all fought together,” Keane said. “That has been our tradition ever since.”

Editor’s note: Spc. Robert Woodward is a journalist with the 101st Airborne Division.

Army chief information offices merge

The Army and Army Reserve Chief Information Offices merged into one organization in June when Lt. Gen. Peter M. Cuvillo, then Army CIO/G-6, and Lt. Gen. James R. Helmly, chief, Army Reserve, formalized a memorandum of agreement between the two Army service components.

“This may be the largest step yet in the movement to a single Army Knowledge Enterprise,” Cuvillo said of the June 25 agreement. “It is a significant accomplishment in our transformation journey.”

With this organizational realignment, the Army Reserve becomes properly aligned with functions and responsibilities assigned to the Army CIO in General Order #3,

The realignment will also ease the transformation of the service culture into a true multi-component organization.

“This agreement is a significant milestone in the process of the Army’s integration,” said Daniel F. Wiener, chief, Army Reserve Information Office.

“With this merger, the Army Reserve demonstrates its commitment to both the transformation of

the Army, and to a common/single Army enterprise. As a direct result, the Army will achieve significant efficiencies in technical, operational and human resources. It passes the ‘common-sense test’ with flying colors.”

The Army Reserve continues to be responsible for the planning, programming, budgeting, and execution support for all related Army Reserve appropriations for command, control, communications and computers, and information technology or C4/IT.

Additionally, the Army Reserve Regional CIO will retain authority for the Army Reserve virtual region and all Army Reserve MACOM CIO functions.

The Army CIO/G-6 will continue to provide resource strategic guidance and policy oversight, ensuring that Army Reserve C4/IT requirements are integrated and validated within the Army’s financial management process.

For more information, e-mail Patrick Swan, Army CIO/G-6 Public Affairs, at Patrick.Swan@us.army.mil.

Editor’s note: Information is from an Army news release.)

Savings Bond Program accessible via web

The U.S. Army Savings Bond Program is now accessible via the Web. All materials, forms and information are now in electronic format.

Information regarding the program will be disseminated using e-mail, and bonds will still be available for purchase throughout the year.

The minimum holding period has increased from six to 12 months.

Rate changes and other information about bonds will be provided via e-mail.

Civilian employees can purchase Series EE/I Savings

Bonds via myPay on the DFAS Web site at

www.dfas.mil/myPay, and make changes to their current allotment.

For those uncomfortable purchasing bonds online, they can complete the DoD Authorization Form SB-2378, print and turn it into the customer service representative. The form is available on the Treas-

ury Department Web site, www.savingsbonds.gov.

Military members must complete the DoD Authorization Form SB-2378 online, print and turn it in to their military payroll office.

DFAS is expected to complete the electronic processing capability for military members to purchase bonds using myPay in 2004.



‘A... My Name is Alice’ debuts tonight

Show is celebration of women

Denise Allen
Signal staff

The audition was great, but it wasn’t the mix Steve Walpert needed when casting the Neil Simon hit “They’re Playing our Song.”

“Strange things happen in theater,” said Walpert, director of Fort Gordon Dinner Theatre’s production of “A...My Name is Alice” which opens tonight at 8 p.m. following the 7 p.m. buffet at the theater.

“We needed an equal number of men and women. We didn’t have enough men,” he said about his reasons for substituting the musical.

He did, however, have a great group of talented women with different looks and a wide range of styles. He said he couldn’t think of a better show to put on with a lot of women than “A...My Name is Alice,” which will run for three consecutive weekends, plus a show July 24.

Unlike other productions Alice is a musical revue with no plot line, only a group of vignettes linked together through different styles of music and a multitude of costume changes.

All of the roles, including



photo by Steve Walpert

(From left to right) Kay Gross, Erin Hamblin, Raqi Barnett, Chae Harris rehearse.

those of the men, are played by the cast of five women – Raqi Barnett, Erin Hamblin, Cheronda Harris, Kay Gross and Brandy Bunch.

“It’s definitely a celebration of women – women in a myriad of different situations,” said Harris. “As the

show begins and ends, it’s a girl power kind of thing.”

The lives of female basketball players, a blues singer, kindergarten teacher, a high school girl and a hippie poet are captured through the vignettes.

“Some songs are hysteri-

cally funny. Some are really touching,” said Erin Hamblin, who is the donor recruiter at Fort Gordon’s Kendrick Memorial Blood Center.

Hamblin said her favorite scene is called “Pretty Young Men” about two conservative and proper women who

reluctantly go to a male strip show with one of their friends.

“They really get into it,” she said. “By the end, they are throwing their purses around” to the imaginary male stripper on the stage.

Each of the actresses performs seven or eight different numbers in the fast-moving show. One of the challenges to this show is the numerous costume changes, said Bunch.

In a rehearsal, the actresses spent time with costume coordinators, Betty Walpert and Cathy McClain, trying to decide which costumes could be worn underneath other costumes to facilitate quicker changes between songs.

“I go from a construction worker to a narrator to a French woman” in a short span, said Bunch.

While the show features an all-female cast with a feminine perspective on life, Steve Walpert said it’s not for a female only audience.

“I don’t think people necessarily come to see men or women; they come to see talented people perform,” he said.

Tickets are \$30 for civilians, \$28 for seniors 65 and older, retirees, Department of the Army civilians and active duty E8 and above, \$17 for active duty E7 and below, and \$12 for show only.

For reservations, call 793-8552 or go to www.fortgordon.com.

Tips help make home mosquito safe

The most effective way to control mosquitoes around the home is to find and eliminate breeding sites. All mosquitoes pass through four life stages: egg, larva, pupa and adult. The first three stages must have water for development. After the eggs hatch, the larval stage begins. Mosquito larvae are often called "wrigglers".

Wrigglers are most commonly seen just below the surface of the water. The larvae feed on microorganisms found in the water and grow rapidly. The mature larvae transform into pupae. Mosquito pupae are also quite active and are often called "tumbler" because of their tumbling motion in water when disturbed. After a few days the pupae transform into adults.

Homeowners can take the following steps to prevent mosquito breeding on their property:

The best option for mosquito control is to target the larval stage. The larval stage develops in the water.

- Remove standing water that may accumulate on the property (e.g., lawn ornaments, flower pots, etc.)

- Destroy or dispose of tin cans, plastic containers or any other object that can hold water. Pay special attention to old tires.

- Empty and refresh pet water dishes, watering troughs and birdbaths at least once a week.

- Ensure that garbage cans, receptacles have tight fitting lids.

- Clean debris from rain gutters and remove any standing water under or around structures or on flat roofs. Check around faucets and air conditioner units and repair leaks or puddles that remain for several days.

- If you have a swimming pool or spa, keep it chlorinated. If not in use, cover. Make sure

water does not collect on the cover.

- Empty children wading pools immediately after use.

- Store small boats upside down. Cover large boats. Make sure the drain plug is removed so water can drain out of the boat. Make sure water does not collect on the cover.

- Stock ornamental pools with "Mosquito Fish." Contact your local health department or mosquito abatement district for information on acquiring these fish.

- Irrigate lawns and gardens carefully to prevent standing water.

Adult Mosquito Control

- Keep adult mosquitoes out of the home by using screens on doors and windows.

- Use repellents such as DEET if you are working or playing in mosquito infested areas.

- Adult mosquitoes rest on weeds and other vegetation. Homeowners can reduce the number of areas where adult mosquitoes rest by removing brushy areas from around structures and regularly mowing the lawn.

Insects Commonly Mistaken for Mosquitoes

In many instances, what appears to be a mosquito may actually be another type of insect. Midges are the most widespread and numerous insects resembling mosquitoes. Adult midges are commonly observed flying in swarms or "clouds." Although these midges do not bite, they are quite annoying. Crane Flies, often mistaken as very large mosquitoes, are also non-biting insects that pose no risk to you or your family.

Editor's note: Information taken from the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine Web site.

Virus

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eliminated by having good drainage around our homes and our environment, then the possibility for breeding sites of mosquitoes will be eliminated. This is not a cure all but it does help," said Morgan.

Another measure to reduce the risk of WNV is personal protection including the use of insect repellent, according to Morgan.

Residents should apply a thin layer of repellent containing DEET directly to the skin and apply repellent containing permethrin to clothing. Before wearing clothing, allow the clothing to dry completely, and before allowing children to wear treated clothes, the clothing should be ventilated.

When using insect repellent, follow the directions carefully, admonishes Morgan.

In addition to this, post preventive medicine personnel conduct surveys to monitor and test the mosquito population. Based on the survey results, a recommendation will be made to the pest control division as to the need for spraying, according to Morgan.

The pest control division applies larvacide to areas that need it, according to Capt. Lalini Pillay of the environmental science office.

Anyone seeing a dead bird, especially a black crow, without any visible injury should contact Veterinary Services, 791-7375 or 791-3815. Before handling any dead bird or animal, use gloves, place it in a plastic bag and secure it before disposal, according to Morgan.

Combat related special compensation update released

DoD has received over 12,000 applications for Combat-Related Special Compensation, a program that began June 1. At least 100 will be approved to receive payments July 1. The number of approved applications should increase significantly each month as the applications move through the review process.

DoD has three suggestions to improve the quality of an application, which will aid in managing the requests.

First, be careful to classify disabilities as awarded by the VA. A retiree who does not have this information should contact the VA regional office and request a listing of their disabilities by VASRD code (VA Schedule of Rating Disabilities).

The VA has notified regional offices to expect and support such requests. The VA has been very helpful to DoD and the two departments are working closely to achieve an effective flow and exchange of information needed to operate the CRSC program.

Second, especially for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), a retiree should try to find and submit a copy of the first VA rating decision on the disability that shows the basis of the award. More recent ratings may show only that the disability has been increased in percentage with no information about the origin of the disability or basis of the award.

Third, retirees should avoid submission of unrelated documents. The retiree should try and provide only those supporting documents that deal with qualifying conditions. This is especially true for medical records. The review board may find it difficult to document a combat

disability if the retiree sends in all his/her medical records.

Eligible members are those retirees who have 20 years of service for retired pay computation and who either have disabilities because of combat injuries for which they have been awarded the Purple Heart or who are rated at least 60 percent disabled because of armed conflict, hazardous duty, training exercises, or mishaps involving military equipment.

Members must apply to their own branch of service using DD form 2860, Application for Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC). Information is available at <http://dod.mil/prhome/crsc.html>.

Although the compensation is just getting off the ground, it is unpopular with military and veteran groups. Only 6 percent of disabled retirees will qualify because the disability must be combat-related and, for some, be rated at 60 percent or more.

"The current law is inequitable and, in 94 percent of cases, unfair," said Marshall Hanson of the National Association for Uniformed Services. It "even excludes disabled reserve retirees who were awarded Purple Hearts," he said.

The Senate approved an amendment to the 2004 defense authorization bill that would provide concurrent receipt of both full military retirement pay and disability pay for veterans who have 20 years of military service and are eligible for both. That provision is endorsed by all of the major military and veterans groups. A House-Senate conference committee will decide later this year if the Senate provision becomes law.

(From DefenseLINK and The Military Times.)



Photo by Master Sgt. Pleasant Lindsey III

Patriotic players

The Crooked River Dixie Band, featuring left to right, Spc. Duncan McGrath, saxophone; Staff Sgt. Billy Farmer, tuba (rear); Spc. Gavin Anderson, trombone; Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Strayer, trumpet; and, Staff Sgt. Roderick Wallace, clarinet; performed at the Jessye Norman Ampitheater on the River Walk in Augusta July 4.

e-MILPO

From page 1A

actually need to have access to or have a need to know," she said.

The e-MILPO database will help simplify the personnel process, according to Bernhardt. Unit personnel centers will still have to do all of the things they do now including running reports and command certification, but e-MILPO will interface with other personnel systems—EDAS, ATRRS and

PERNET—so that one transaction in either database will update all systems.

"Accountability is something that is very important," said Bernhardt. "e-MILPO is the only database of record for requisitioning replacements."

Advantages to the e-MILPO system are the individual personnel record will be one page, it will improve enlisted reassignment process, officer and

NCO promotions will be topped to the system, personnel accountability reports can be generated automatically, easier navigation, embedded help tools, and departure transactions will no longer have to be done.

Any personnel specialist having trouble getting into their e-MILPO account or who don't have an account should contact Bernhardt at 791-1991.



Courtesy photo

New unit command at Eisenhower

Capt. Alie Brown hands the Eisenhower Army Medical Center Company A guidon to 1st. Sgt. Stephen Newsome during his change of command ceremony June 27, as Capt. Claudia Noyola stands by to receive the guidon. Noyola comes to EAMC from the Schweinfurt Health Clinic in Germany where she was executive officer. Brown will stay at Eisenhower, working in the Clinical Support Division.

WWII vets may be eligible for Bronze Star

Staff Sgt. Marcia Triggs

WASHINGTON – World War II veterans who earned the Combat Infantry Badge or the Combat Medical Badge are eligible to receive another award to honor their heroism – the Bronze Star Medal.

Twenty-two Bronze Star Medals were awarded in a small community in Goshen, Ind., last month. A few were given posthumously, but most veterans were able to enjoy the moment with family and friends.

After the tears stopped flowing for veteran Lovell "Buzz" Burdette, he began his acceptance speech. He thanked all 15 of his family members who attended the event in the local Veterans of Foreign Wars. From his son to his great-granddaughter,

85-year-old Buzz repeated the words "thank you" through shivering lips.

"It was a very emotional moment," said Ronald Burdette, Buzz's son. "Receiving the Bronze Star Medal was just a tidbit of an award for a man that is as amazing as my dad," Burdette said. "He endured much and showed immeasurable honor, courage and commitment."

Exactly what Buzz's heroic acts are is unknown to his family because

he talks very little about his experiences during the war, according to Burdette. "He was proud to serve, and he talks about some of his buddies, but he didn't come home bragging about taking other people's lives."

In 1947, the Bronze Star Medal was authorized for all of those who earned a Combat Infantry Badge or the Combat Medical Badge, according to Army Regulation 600-8-2, Military



boastful, and I wanted as many men as possible to get the honor they deserve," Piecuch said.

The chaplain for the local Goshen VFW, Piecuch put announcements in the local newspapers stating that he was looking for veterans who had earned the CIB. He started his pilgrimage in February and said that from the time he started to the event in June, two veterans died before they could be honored.

"It's sad that there are thousands of veterans who don't know that the Bronze Star Medal is automatic as long as their discharge papers states that they received the CIB," Piecuch said. "Out of the 22 men we honored, only three knew they were eligible."

Officials from the National Personnel Records Center say that they don't know how many veterans are eligible for the medal or who still have

not received the award, because a massive fire in 1963 destroyed most of the official military personnel files from World War II.

Piecuch believes that there are thousands, maybe tens of thousands based on the number of eligible recipients from the small town of Goshen.

"There has to be more out there that deserve recognition," Piecuch said. "They went to war and quietly came back home, went to work and built this country."

The 18 men from Goshen, along with two sons and two widows who accepted the medal on their loved ones behalf, received the Bronze Star Medal with their names engraved on the back and a photocopy of a congratulatory letter from President George W. Bush and another from former President George Bush.

(From ARNEWS news service.)

Viewpoint

Information, Opinions, and Commentary

Commentary: Deployed mom defends choice

Pfc. Christina Carde
11th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – While sitting at my desk writing my daily article for the Freedom Watch, an Army newspaper for soldiers in Afghanistan, my co-worker casually turned to me and suggested that I type my name in the Yahoo search engine to see all of the articles I’ve written that have been posted on the Internet.

Not thinking anything of it, I typed my name in and began to scroll down headlines of stories I’ve written since my deployment to Afghanistan. I was not prepared for what I found.

“Agape News Press - The case of Private Christina,” read one of the sites on the page. Curious, I clicked on it to see what had been printed about me. I received the shock of a lifetime.

Cort Kirkwood, a journalist and

editor of The Daily News Record in Harrisonburg, Va., had read an article about me run by the Department of Defense Web news site, Defend America, titled “A Mom’s Mission” and had decided to rip it to shreds.

He called me everything from basically an unfit mother for leaving my son to go off to war to a sellout for enlisting in the Army for “30 pieces of silver,” a.k.a., the Montgomery G.I. Bill.

As I read the article, I realized this was not only an attack on my 3-year-old son and me, but on all mothers deployed in the service of their country.

However, since Mr. Kirkwood believes he is the subject-matter expert on the lives of women in the military he has never met or spoken to, I thought I would take the time to broaden his horizons using a few points he made in his article.

“Patriotism ain’t the real reason

Pfc. Christina signed up (for the Army). She enlisted for college benefits and to improve her family’s lot in life, she enlisted for 30 pieces of silver.”

Before I joined the Army, my son and I were living in one of the worst sections in the New York City area, where getting your next drug fix took nothing more than walking across the street or knocking on the neighbor’s door.

Working up to 60 hours a week was just barely paying the bills, and my 2-year-old son could have walked out the door at any time and been shot during a drive-by.

I suppose I could have taken the alternate route and applied for public assistance, so upstanding citizens like Mr. Kirkwood could pay my bills for me, but I decided to get out of the rut I was in on my own and joined the service. Now my son lives in a neighborhood where you can hear a pin drop and

lights are out by 9 p.m.

“Who are the military morons who think this is a good idea (to allow mothers to deploy overseas)?”

When I came to this portion of the article, I could do nothing but sit back and laugh at the irony of his statement.

The same “military morons” who give American women a chance to serve their country and provide for their families, are the same who fight and die alongside many of these women in today’s combat operations.

They are the ones who give journalists like Kirkwood the freedom of press and speech to write tasteless, unprofessional and uneducated “news articles” such as “The Case of Private Christina.”

At least these mothers can return home with a sense of pride and accomplishment and be able to tell their children that they had a part in defending their country.

What will Mr. Kirkwood be able

to say other than he bashed the integrity and courage of these female troops during a time of war?

“Perhaps the would-be MacArthurs see nothing wrong with a mother dumping on her young son,” was the final statement that stood out for me in the article.

Like many other deployed parents out here, I haven’t seen my son in six months. However, I know my son is in a safe place with everything he needs.

He will never be a child who has to wear second-hand clothing or the one stuck at home because I can’t afford to send him on a class trip.

That is the way things should be, and if I have to deploy in search of every Bin Laden and Hussein on the planet to keep it that way, then so be it.

Editor’s note: Pfc. Christina Carde is a member of the 11th Public Affairs Detachment currently in Afghanistan.

Power equipment makes lawn care easier ... but more dangerous

With the warmer summer weather finally here, our outdoor chores turn to the lawn and garden.

We haul out the riding mower, push mower, weedeater, tiller, trimmer and other power equipment. We check it over and give it a tune-up.

Now it’s time for a safety tune-up. It only takes one careless mishap to turn an everyday chore into a tragic preventable accident.

Start out right

It’s been a long time since you parked your power equipment for the winter season. Please take the time to review your owners manual. It will refresh your memory on all the controls and maintenance tips.

- Do a visual inspection.
- Make sure that all of the guards are in still in place.
- Tighten loose belts and covers.
- Check for loose wheels.
- Check power cords.

- Inspect gas line hoses.
- Replace any worn or broken parts.
- If you can’t do the repair work yourself, take it to a qualified repair shop.

Remember the basics

Remember the basic safety guidelines that are so easy to forget or disregard. It’s only common sense.

Handle gas and oil with care

- Fill up your gas tank before you start when the engine is cool.
- Don’t spill when you fill.
- Fill in a well ventilated area.
- Use a funnel when filling engine oil.
- Only use approved gasoline containers.
- **NEVER smoke around gasoline!**

Proper dress

- Dress appropriately.
- Wear long pants, and a long-sleeve shirt to avoid

injury from thrown objects, rocks or sticks.

- Wear eye protection; safety glasses or goggles are inexpensive.
- Don’t wear anything that could get caught in moving parts like jewelry or loose fitting clothes.
- Wear sturdy shoes, preferably with non-slip soles.
- Gloves can also protect your hands while cleaning or sharpening blades.
- Hearing protection can also be important.

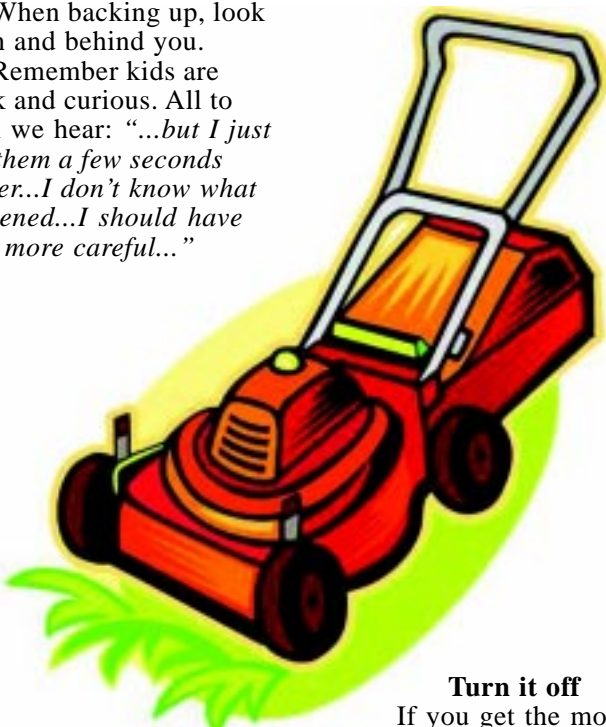
Make clean sweep

- Make a clean sweep of your work area.
- Pick up any rocks, sticks, trash, golf balls, or toys.
- Any small item can be thrown by a mower and cause injury or damage.
- Watch out for kids and pets
- Make sure kids and pets are out of the work area.
- Turn off the equipment if they enter the area.

- When backing up, look down and behind you.
- Remember kids are quick and curious. All too often we hear: “...but I just saw them a few seconds earlier...I don’t know what happened...I should have been more careful...”

No children

Riding mowers are built for one passenger. Never allow children to ride as a passenger when you’re mowing. Children should not operate a mower. They don’t have the strength and maturity.



Turn it off

If you get the mower plugged, turn it off and then get off. Never leave a mower running unattended. Never work on equipment while it is running.

Mow, don’t race

Remember that a riding

mower is designed for hard work, not speed. Even if the mower deck has been removed it’s still not a racer. If you feel the *need for speed* get off the mower!

Tiller safety

Remember that all the safety tips mentioned above apply for tillers also: gas handling, proper dress and keeping children away are all very important

Check for large objects. Remove any large stones, tree trunks or large roots from the area before you start. They can easily catch in the tines and cause the tiller to jump or upset.

Turn it off

If the tines get bound up with grass or weeds, turn the tiller off before untangling it.

Editor’s note: The above information was compiled from the following website: www.polkfire.com/lawn.htm



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Distribution on post is free, and circulation is 18,500 per week.



Photo by Steve Brady

Cool down

Michelle Smith and her son Colton take a dip at the Ring Hall pool during an Infant Aquatics class. The class, designed to introduce young children to the water, meets from 11-11:45 a.m. Mondays through Thursdays and costs \$50 for two weeks. Call 791-3034 to register. The pool is open daily noon-6:45 p.m., closed Wednesdays.

Awards ceremony

The installation quarterly awards ceremony is 8:30 a.m. **July 31** in Conrad Hall. The ceremony will honor the following individuals:

Servicemember of the 3rd Quarter, Fiscal Year 2003: Spc. Wayne Landis (Company A, 206th Military Intelligence Battalion); Noncommissioned Officer of the 3rd Quarter, Fiscal Year 2003: Staff Sgt. Sara Smith (Company B, 551st Signal Battalion); Instructor of the 3rd Quarter, Fiscal Year 2003: Staff Sgt. LaManns Fingers (Headquarters & Company A, 369th Signal Battalion); Civilian of the 3rd Quarter, Fiscal Year 2003: Judy Wyatt (Military Personnel Division, Directorate of Human Resources); Volunteer of the Month (April 2003): Kathryn Robertson (442nd Signal Battalion Family Readiness Group); Volunteer of the Month (May 2003): Karenann B-Amster (American Red Cross); and Volunteer of the Month (June 2003): Rae Lynne Guthrie (Community Life Center).

Everyone is encouraged to attend. For more information, contact Linda Means at 791-1871.

Job opportunity

Federal Network Systems, a division of Verizon, will be at the ACAP Center at 11 a.m. **July 22** to discuss employment opportunities for transitioning service members. For more information contact Juva Alexander at 791-7356/7333.

ACS birthday

Army Community Services celebrates its 38th birthday from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. **July 25** in the Darling Hall atrium. For information, call 791-3579.

School dress code

The Richmond County Board of Education recently announced a revised mandatory dress code for the 2003-04 school year.

Tops must be solid red, white or blue, while bottoms must be blue, black or khaki;

denim is acceptable. All pants must be of a traditional style, and fit at the waist.

There is no "opt out" provision this year. For information, call 737-7200.

FEW meeting

The next meeting of Federally Employed Women, Garden City Chapter, is 11:30 a.m. **Wednesday** in the Gordon Room of the Gordon Club. Members who attended the FEW National Training Program in Chicago July 7-11 will brief on the training. For information, call Judith Creer at 791-5653.

Human resources workshop

The Society for Human Resource Management Augusta Area Chapter will host a session on the impact of the aging workforce from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. **July 30** at the Holiday Inn West on Steven's Creek Road.

Guest speaker is Lucy Welchel, a consultant from Covington, Ga., noting the

impact of the baby boomer generation's retirement from the workplace.

Cost for non-members of the SHRM Chapter is \$15. Guests interested in attending should contact Karen Whitman at 220-2915 or by e-mail at karen.whitman@siteeast.com by July 25.

Tuition assistance

The Army tuition assistance program provides soldiers assistance with tuition fees for college classes.

The Army will pay up to \$250 per semester hour for a post-secondary course. Soldiers may be eligible for payment of some fees over and above the tuition rate. However, total benefits cannot exceed the established rate of \$250 per semester hour. The total tuition assistance benefits per individual for FY 03 can not exceed \$4,500.

To find out more about the use of TA, call 791-2000.

Degree programs

Central Michigan University's College of Extended Learning at Fort Gordon is holding registration Monday – July 31 for classes starting in September (Term VI). For information, call 798-5739 or visit the CMU office in Building 21606, Barnes Avenue.

Lake activities

Fort Gordon Recreation Area and Strom Thurmond Lake offers lodging, campsites, pavilion, picnic area, boat/RV storage, camping equipment and more.

For more information on the recreation area or reserving part of the area go to www.fortgordon.com or call 541-1057.

Purple Heart order

Chapter 425 of The Military Order of the Purple Heart meets the third Saturday of each month. The order is open to all Purple Heart recipients in the CSRA. For information, call 731-7210.

ATNM conference

The semiannual Army

Fort Gordon Report



COMING UP

The newest edition of *Army Newswatch* premieres **Monday** and includes the following stories:

- **Restoring hospital generators in Iraq**
- **USMA graduation**

The *Fort Gordon Report* and *Army Newswatch* alternate weeks. **Operation New Horizons closes**

Mondays and Thursdays at 7:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Fridays at 7 a.m., 12 p.m., 5 p.m., 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m., Wednesdays at 6:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 4:30 p.m., 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays at 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

The next edition of *The Fort Gordon Report* premieres **July 21**.

Catch the newest "Fort Gordon Report" on Comcast Cable Channel 66 on: Mondays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays at 9:00 p.m., Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 8:30 a.m.

The "Fort Gordon Report" is the Signal Center's official television news program and is produced on post by the Fort Gordon Public Affairs Office and the Training Support Center.

Tactical Networks Modernization Conference for tactical Signal unit commanders is **Aug. 11-15**. Preregister now through Aug. 1. A primary focus will be the top five critical systems as designated and approved by the recent Signal Council of Colonels. Relevant vendors will also have displays. Go to www.signalcorps.org for information and registration.

Family fun day

The Augusta Museum of History's July Family Fun Day is **Sunday** at 2 p.m.

Call 722-8454 for information. or go to www.augustamuseum.org.

Special Forces briefing

The Special Forces Recruiting Team is holding a briefing at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. **July 24** at Darling Hall, Room 307. The team is seeking highly motivated, professional male soldiers, both enlisted and officers,

from all career management fields to join the Army's premier fighting force. Call (912)876-6225 for more information, or go to <http://www.stewart.army.mil/SpecialForces/index.htm>.

Papermaking workshop

The Augusta Museum of History is having a paper-making workshop at 1 p.m. **July 31** at the museum. The workshop is free; reservations are required by calling 722-8454. The museum is located at 560 Reynolds St. in Augusta.

Arts events

The Morris Museum of Art offers a variety of events during July including: *Lift Every Voice and Sing: African American Music Series*, 2 p.m. **Sunday**. *Collecting African American Art: A Talk by Atlanta Art Collector Paul R. Jones*, 7 p.m. **Thursday**.

For information, call 724-7501, or go to www.themorris.org.

Army contracts with Microsoft

Angela Yeoh

WASHINGTON – The Army has signed a six-year contract worth more than \$470 million with Microsoft to consolidate software purchases and licenses in an effort to improve security and access to information Army-wide.

The Enterprise Software Consolidation contract covers 494,000 users as well as software for the Army enterprise network, and is expected to save the Army \$15 million over the next six years, officials said.

As part of the Department of Defense Enterprise Software Initiative, ESI, the contract comes under the Army Knowledge Management strategy to better support Army operations through access to information, according to Col. Mark Barnette, chief of the Army's Information Infrastructure Division, G6.

"The ESI aims to provide a net-centric environment where management and movement of information is critical to the needs of the war fighter," he said.

At present, each Army post, camp and station buys software on different contracts. This requires more labor and creates more costs,

including extra paperwork and systems administration work, said Peggy Henderson, acting deputy director of Enterprise Systems Technology Activity.

She added that different elements of the Army may then be on different baselines - that is, have different operating systems and applications - which aren't necessarily compatible.

In addition, many older systems to which Microsoft will no longer provide technical support are more vulnerable to computer viruses and hackers. Henderson noted that buying this mass amount of software will make it much easier for people to get to more current versions.

Barnette outlined three strategic goals for the Army's AKM transformation: to defend the information network, to support the Objective Force, the Army's future, and to reduce the cost of operations.

Henderson said the new contract is particularly relevant to the last of these goals.

"We're trying to be more like a corporation, be more business-oriented," she said. "For example with buying paper, instead of just buying it for your own office, you're buying for the whole organi-

zation because it's substantially cheaper. Enterprise is about treating the Army as one integrated organization."

Integration, she said, also enables more efficient information access.

"If you have the most current information, you're going to do a better job of protecting yourself, winning the battle," said Henderson.

"Running the Army as an enterprise means that people down on the ground can have the most current information and be in a better position to make immediate decisions in their area rather than waiting for someone on high to get the information and assimilate it," he said.

The aim is to have one Army network, one Army portal, a single sign-on capability, a universal directory service, and the ability for plug-in play, where soldiers can go anywhere, anytime and plug in to the network for their work, and gain universal access to information across the Army, according to Barnette.

The Army will buy the software from Microsoft reseller Softmart Government Services, Inc., based in Downingtown, Pa.

(From ARNEWS news service.)

Combatants deemed subject to presidential military order

President George W. Bush determined that six enemy combatants currently detained by the United States are subject to his Military Order of Nov. 13, 2001.

The action, determined July 3, is the next step in the process that may lead to military commissions. The president determined that there is reason to believe that each of these enemy combatants was a member of al Qaeda or was otherwise involved in terrorism directed against the United States.

Military commissions have historically been used

to try violations of the law of armed conflict and related offenses. Offenses that may be charged include those listed in the Crimes and Elements for Trials by Military Commission (Department of Defense Military Commission Instruction No. 2).

Many considerations are used in selecting cases – relevant factors include:

- The quality of evidence
- The completeness of intelligence gathering and
- The desire to bring closure to individual cases.

There is evidence that the individuals designated by the president may have attended

terrorist training camps and may have been involved in such activities as financing al Qaeda, providing protection for Osama bin Laden, and recruiting future terrorists.

The DoD is prepared to conduct full and fair trials if and when the appointing authority approves charges on an individual subject to the president's military order.

Since no charges against any of the detainees have been approved, their names will not be released.

(From a DefenseLINK news release.)

Freedom more than not being accountable

Chaplain (Maj.) Tim Panula
Chaplain Family Life Center director

Freedom. We live in a free nation but we know that our freedom is not free. The parade that I watched on the Fourth of July included proud units from the VFW and the American Legion. They are veterans who promote patriotism, proudly displaying our flag and who represent those who have made the ultimate sacrifice to ensure the longevity of our liberty.

Current events demonstrate that freedom is not free. Our nation is still waging a war in Iraq and a global war against terrorism. They are also doing "peacekeeping" operations and providing security throughout the world.

Those efforts are at a tremendous cost, the least of which is a return to congressional deficit spending.

The operational pace of the military has placed tremendous demands on service members and their families, active duty and reserve. Next year's national political campaigns will likely divide rather than unite. "One nation, under God, indivisible . . ." may seem to be a remote concept.

Those things will have an impact on our ability to be successful in military operations that will be ongoing for many years to come.

Freedom is not free. I know a young man who places a very high value on "freedom." But, in his mind, freedom means not having to be accountable or responsible: the less responsibility, the more freedom.

His life may become one in which he will be subjected to more and more bondage: to alcohol and drug addictions; to physical maladies resulting from sexually transmitted diseases; to a load of debt that he may never be able to get out from under; and to a way of thinking

and a belief system that is irrational, illogical and "captivating." His desire to be free may lead him to extended imprisonment.

While I'm thinking of him, it's important to do some self-examination. Am I a free person, or are there things that are restricting a full expression of true freedom? All of the things relative to the young man mentioned above can become very subtle aspects of my own life. Am I willing to continue to pay the price of enduring personal freedom?

The current war against terrorism is unique to any war Americans have ever been engaged in - it's not against a nation. It's against ideas and beliefs of groups of people who are in hiding throughout the many nations.

It's a largely "unseen" enemy - not too much unlike the unseen enemies that wage war against our soul - things like addictions, lust, envy, jealousy, and greed. Victory over these things will ensure our freedom. Freedom comes at a tremendous cost - it is not free.

A phrase that I have not heard expressed for many years, sums it up very well. "Let go, and let God!" One of the translations of the Old Testament expresses Job 22:21 like this: "Stop quarreling with God. If you agree with Him you will have peace at last and things will go well with you."

The commitment of the members of the Armed Forces and their families, to train, fight, and be vigilant and to serve our nation in time of conflict, is a significant component to ensuring our nation's freedom. Our Armed Forces are to be honored for that commitment. Our nation owes a debt of gratitude because, as you know, freedom is not free.

Area student recognized

The Greater Augusta Area Chapter of Blacks in Government recently awarded their annual scholarship to Jennifer Powell.

She is a 2003 graduate of T.W. Josey High School, where she was a member of the National Honor Society, Foreign Language Honor Society, National Honor Roll, Who's Who Among American High School Students and President of the Student Council. She also received the Academic Achiever's Award in 2003. She plans to attend Tuskegee Institute to major in mathematics. Powell is the daughter of Sgt. 1st Class Reynaldo and Linda Powell of Augusta.

BIG was founded in 1975 as a response to the need for African-Americans in public service to organize around issues of mutual concerns and to use collective strength to address workplace issues and other problems. BIG was incorporated as a national, non-partisan organization of government employees at the federal, state, and local levels in 1976.

Since that time, BIG has been recognized by the President of the United States, the U.S. Congress, the NAACP, Office of Personnel Management, Department of Defense, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, IMAGE, Federally Employed Women and the National Minority Coalition.

Its goals and objectives are simply to promote equity in all aspects

of American life, excellence in public service, and opportunity for all Americans. BIG functions as a professional development organization and advocacy organization for its members and constituents.

Benefits include unlimited networking resources, training conferences, seminars, professional development workshops, and forums designed to provide knowledge, awareness and direction helping everyone reach their full potential. Membership is open to all regardless of race, sex, national origin, age, religion, or handicap.

The Augusta chapter of BIG was established in March 1987. BIG is active in community outreach and promotes programs to support the Fort Gordon and Augusta area communities each year. BIG is a key player in the annual Martin Luther King Jr., commemorative luncheon; participates in the installation Black History Month programs; provides scholarships to local area school students in the CSRA; selects students to participate in the Youth Oratorical/Information Superhighway competition at the local, regional and national levels; provides free training to all employees (members/non-members); and contributes donations to the Fort Gordon Chaplain's Thanksgiving Food Basket Program and Christmas House.

For information on the chapter, write to Harold Simon at P.O. Box 8019, Fort Gordon, Ga., 30909.

Deployment helps forge friendships

I have been thinking about this deployment a lot. It always has something to write about, to show people that even though it is still going on, good things are happening around us.

One of the biggest benefits of this deployment that I have seen, and been a part of, are the friendships that have formed.

People are sharing and caring for each other. I am a person who needs to talk about the things that happen to me and share them with someone. Since my best friend—my husband—is still gone, my friends have taken up most of that sharing.

The bonds this deployment has forged are strong ones. And though a stressful situation has thrown us together, the bonds are for the long haul, even when we leave Fort Gordon and move

on to a new location. We have become true friends. We have banded together to help each other deal with the emotions, pains and tribulations of being the spouse of a deployed soldier.

And together we have dealt with the grief, the occasional joy, and the constant waiting. We have dealt with the unintentional unkind things that have been tossed our way.

When the war started and things were moving so quickly, my emotions were like a roller coaster. The primary thought was for safety and not to have my husband be injured,

wounded, or the unspeakable, killed. Our unit had been gone a few months when one of my friends went home. She was faced with a situation: her

sister's boyfriend had been on a little trip for three days, and her sister was morose. The striking difference between having a husband who was deployed and in harms way, to a boyfriend out on a jaunt with his buddies hit

her hard.

The shallowness of my friends' sister hurt in two ways. The sister's pouting was over something that was going to be fixed quickly and didn't involve Scud missiles

or chemical warfare, just some of the many threats at the beginning of the war that made us all so nervous. It seemed self-centered and shallow in the context of life. And it was her sister, someone she thought would support her and not be so self-absorbed.

As friends we muddled through the levels of hurt and tried to help our friend heal. We have continued to help each other through this deployment with the special things, emotions and feelings. The care and comfort offered by members of our unit have been wonderful. It has been nice to know people immediately around me care.

The caring hasn't been confined to our unit. I have experienced some of the most caring people in the communities we live in through this deployment.

As the soldiers in this war have shown over and over again, they are a team, and every soldier has someone who cares about them as a team member, a person. Soldiers are taking care of one another.

On the home front, the families care too, and not just spouses. Fellow soldiers, mothers, fathers, siblings are all involved and care. I have one friend, her grandmother has four children and grandchildren involved in this deployment. Her grandmother's life touches many people, and in turn each one of those people have expressed concern, offered prayer, sent a note, and showed they care.

There are churches across the country praying for soldiers. It is so comforting knowing prayers for our soldiers' safety go out every-

day. Freedom Park Elementary and other schools have shown how much the children care with letters, e-mails, and a beautiful banner to welcome returning soldiers home whenever they return. There are billboards and signs all over town. I can't list them all, but they are out there.

And then there are people who do the kindest thing of all. They acknowledge that having your husband or wife gone is a loss. And they say they care. Humanly, it is that simple. An acknowledgement that there is a loss, and that special handling may be needed. And it has been that human touch that has helped me so much...while I am waiting.

Editor's note: "While I am waiting..." is a series of comments and events from the spouse of a deployed soldier who wishes to remain anonymous.



Hometown news needs support

Fort Gordon's Public Affairs Office needs your Hometown News Release form.

For military personnel who recently received a promotion, an award, reenlisted, completed a Fort Gordon MOS-producing course, arrived for duty, retired, etc., a news release is needed so family members and friends back home can read about it in their hometown

newspaper.

All it takes is a few minutes to complete Department of Defense Form 2266, Information for Hometown News Release, and place it in distribution to the Public Affairs Office for processing.

Upon receipt of a release, the Public Affairs Office will review it and forward it to the Hometown News Print Media

Division, San Antonio, Texas. Releases are then sent to thousands of newspapers throughout the United States.

It is a command responsibility to encourage participation in the program. So the next time someone in your office or unit is promoted or receives an award or reenlists, mention filling out DD Form 2266.

Service members are urged

to take the time to complete a release and "share with those who care." This program helps service members by allowing their hometown communities to keep up with their accomplishments and successes.

Questions regarding release procedures should be directed to the individual's battalion S-1 or call Nancy Martin, Public Affairs Office, at 791-7590.

Drill sergeant spotlight

Name: Sgt. 1st Class Robert Clark Jr.

Unit: C Company, 447th Signal Battalion

Hometown: Norfolk, Va.

Time at Fort Gordon: 19 months

What do you enjoy about being a DS? I most enjoy working with some of the finest hard-charging NCOs in the Signal Regiment. If I can pass on anything from my experience in the Army, that they can use in training today's men and women who are our future, then it's all worth the effort and sacrifice.

What do you want to accomplish in the Army? I still have some personal goals to accomplish, like further schooling. I've accomplished so much already, assignments, travel and being able to work with some outstanding Americans, but my main goal is to prepare for retirement and stay competitive for promotion.



Sgt. 1st Class Clark

Sports & Leisure

Sports UPDATE

Golf classes

Gordon Lakes Golf Course offers junior golf classes for children 9 - 15.

Kids will learn the rules and etiquette of the game and follow-up with a four-hole tournament on the last day.

Classes are **July 15, 17, 22 and 24** from 9 - 11 a.m.

For more information, call 791-2433.

Third Annual PBA Southern Regional Pro-Am Tournament

Fort Gordon soldiers and area bowling enthusiasts will have a chance to bowl with top professionals and see them in action at the Third Annual PBA Southern Regional Pro-Am Tournament **July 18** at Gordon Lanes Bowling Center.

The event is open to the public. For more information, contact Tim Stancil at 791-3446.

Swim lessons

The American Red Cross offers swimming lessons at the Ring Hall pool for children ages six months to 18 years. Lessons are open to active duty, Department of Army civilians and family members. Cost is \$50 per student. Call 791-3034.

Lacrosse club meets

The Aiken-Augusta Lacrosse Club is having practice **July 13 and 27, Aug. 10 and 24, and Sept. 7** in both Aiken and Augusta. The club is open to players of all abilities. Call 733-4271 or 854-1908 for information.

Ladies golf schedule

Thursdays are ladies golf days at Gordon Lakes Golf Course. Tee time is 8 a.m.

For more information, call Pauline Blandeburgo at 863-3747.

Spouse bowling night

The Gordon Lanes Bowling Center offers bowling for spouses of deployed soldiers the **third Thursday** of each month beginning at 7 p.m. The cost is \$1.25 per game with no charge for shoe rental. Call 791-3446 for information.

Riding lessons

English and Western riding lessons are available at Hilltop Riding Stables for ages six and older.

Group lessons for three or more people are \$15 per person, per lesson on Thursdays.

Private lessons are \$25 per person, per lesson, and semi-private lessons for two people are \$20 per person, per lesson on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Call 791-4864 for details.

Dinner theatre

The Fort Gordon Dinner Theatre presents *A... my name is Alice* **July 11, 12, 18, 19, 24, 25 and 26**. Dinner is at 7 p.m., show begins at 8 p.m. Call 793-8552 for information, reservations and ticket pricing, or go to www.fortgordon.com.

Army wins Armed Forces Triathlon

Mary Young

Naval Base Ventura County

POINT MAGU, Calif. – Army's team won the title of Armed Forces Triathlon Champions for the second year in a row at the 2003 Armed Forces Triathlon, June 21, at Naval Base Ventura County, Point Mugu.

The Army team finished with a total time of 24:49:04. But it was a 2003 U.S. Naval Academy graduate, Ensign Timothy O'Donnell, who won the overall and men's individual race and set a new course record of 1:52:45.

O'Donnell's time was nearly five minutes faster than the previous course record, 1:57:13, set last year. In second place overall was James Bales, a medical student on inactive reserve with the Air Force. Bales finished in 1:54:45, but as an open competitor his time did not contribute toward a team score.

Army 1st Lt. Keith Waters came in third overall, second in the men's division at 1:55:24. Air Force 1st Lt. Matthew Nuffort placed third in the men's division.

Army captured the top two places in the women's competition. Maj. Heidi Grimm, last year's gold medalist in the women's division, successfully defended her title and improved her time by four minutes. Grimm's final time was 2:06:31. Her teammate, 1st Lt. Jessica Jones, again placed second at 2:07:08, despite a two-minute stand-down penalty for drafting during the bike segment. Third place among women was Marine Capt. Susie Gallucci, 2001 winner in the women's division.

At race time, the sky was

overcast and air temperature was about 60 degrees with a light breeze. The 125 triathletes, wearing wetsuits and swim caps, hit the beach shortly after 9 a.m. and dashed into the ocean for the 1,500-meter (about one mile) swim.

The inverted triangle-shaped course goes offshore 200 meters, turns left for 350 meters, and returns for 200 meters. The route is repeated once, giving competitors the option of running through shallow water and around the shoreline course marker to begin the second lap.

O'Donnell said he was surprised at the swim-run-swim format.

"There was a little less swimming than I expected," he said. "With all the running it was a little tougher; it didn't give me time to pull away as much as I'd like to."

O'Donnell pulled away enough to keep his lead throughout the race. He completed the swim in 17:39 and emerged with Gallucci right on his heels at 17:43.

Transitioning to the bike race, athletes struggled out of their wetsuits and moved their bikes to a staging area. Most were already pedaling while still trying to fit numbed feet into their shoes.

The swim-to-bike transition was the end of the race for Marine Corps Capt. Mitch Gold, a veteran distance athlete who will compete in Hawaii's Ironman Triathlon later this year. He had completed the swim in 20:55 and was mounting his bike when the seat broke off.

The flat, 25-mile bike course featured a perilously tight turn that had to be made twice. Gallucci had more than a two-minute edge after the swim, so



Photo by Shane Hadlick

First Lt. Keith Walters leads a group in the running portion of the 2003 Armed Forces Triathlon.

she was comfortably ahead of the other women as she neared the end of the first lap. Then her bike's rear wheel went flat.

"I was just praying that someone would have a wheel, because I had brought a spare tube with me but it dropped on the course," said Gallucci. Her sidelined teammate, Mitch Gold, ran back to his bike, took off the rear wheel and handed it to Gallucci so she could finish the race.

Even with the lost time, Gallucci - who will compete in the U.S. Olympic trials next spring - went on to beat her own best time, finishing in 2:08:30.

The sun broke through the

clouds just as the top competitors started hitting the finish line of the flat, out-and-back 6.2-mile course. Waters, the day's fastest runner, finished in 32:46. But he still couldn't overtake frontrunner O'Donnell, who clocked 36:00, or Bales, the second fastest runner at 35:00.

The best three women's running times were Grimm, who finished the run in 38:12; Air Force Capt. Camilla Stock, at 40:03; and Army Capt. Jennifer Canon at 44:30.

The top six finishers in the men's and women's divisions will go on to represent the U.S. Armed Forces at the 2003 Conseil International du Sport Militaire, or CISM, World Military

Triathlon Championship in Drotten, Holland, July 28 - Aug. 4.

The men's team includes O'Donnell and Lt. j.g. Austin Jackson, representing the Navy; Waters and Capt. Scott Miller, representing the Army; 1st Lt. Matthew Nuffort of the Air Force, and 1st Sgt. Doug Marocco, Marine Corps.

The women's team includes Grimm and 1st Lt. Jessica Jones, representing the Army; Gallucci of the Marine Corps; Capt. Camilla Stock, and Capt. Erika Foster, Air Force; and Lt. Cmdr. Amy Cocanour, Navy.

NBVC Point Mugu will host the CISM World Military Triathlon in 2005.

Army deployments affect women's tackle football league

Spc. Bill Pulman

Army News Service

WASHINGTON – When Rachel Madden learned her Junction City, Kan., football team wasn't going to play its inaugural season she was, to say the least, a little heartbroken.

Of the 35 players on her team, 20 are active-duty soldiers and Army reservists based at nearby Fort Riley, said Madden, the team owner.

To make matters worse, her head coach, Chief Warrant Officer Shawn Adolphus was sent to Iraq too, said Madden.

The opening game of the Junction City Cavalry's inaugural season was supposed to happen April 12, then the call-ups started in March.

The war, she said, "kind of took that away, but we're definitely going to play in 2004."

The Cavalry are one of 30 teams in the National Women's Football Association, a league of tackle football teams that was founded in the fall of 2000 in Nashville, Tenn., by Catherine Masters.

Spread all over the country, the league offers women a chance to play tackle football — an opportunity they never had in high school, said Masters during a phone interview. Taking advantage of the opportunity to coach or play are soldiers in the National Guard, Army Reserve and regular Army.

Masters said she's always considered herself a football fan, and after 25 years in sports marketing, she considered tackle football "a



Photo by Spc. Bill Putnam

Takiyah "TK" Washington, defensive end for the D.C. Divas sacks the Connecticut Crush's Donna Bruce during the Divas-Crush playoff football game June 28 in Washington, D.C. The Divas beat the Crush 76-0 to advance to the second round of the National Women's Football Association playoffs.

last bastion for sports for women" and wanted to fill the void.

"I thought it would be fun to see if I could put it to-

gether," she said.

The response at the first tryouts for the Nashville team was incredible, she said. Over 300 women of all ages tried

out and more seem to come out of the woodwork every year around the country, she said.

The league's popularity has grown ever since. Ten teams played a schedule of eight games the first season, then that grew to 21 and now 30 teams compete, said Masters. Next year the league will expand to 37 teams, she said. The teams play on high school or small college football fields, she said.

A five-game playoff tournament culminates in the league's championship game, dubbed the SupHer Bowl, which is played in Nashville during August. This year's game is scheduled for Aug. 2, said Masters. Over 5,000 people watched last year's game.

Ed Smith, retired master sergeant, helped coach the D.C. Divas in Washington, D.C., to a 76-0 victory in the team's first playoff game against the Connecticut Crush.

Smith has helped guide the Divas from mere rookies that never tried on a set of football pads to full-fledged, full-hitting players. After finishing 3-4 and 5-3 during their first two seasons, the Divas went on to finish 7-1 this year to win the NWFA's Mid-Atlantic Division.

Madden's (no relation to the football great and

Monday night football commentator John Madden) team isn't the only NWFA team with an Army connection. Most teams contacted have players that are soldiers in the National Guard, Army Reserve or on active duty.

But Madden's situation, though, is the most severe example of a NWFA team affected by the war on terrorism.

Other teams have players that have been called up for duty, but have not needed to cancel their season. The Asheville, N.C.-based Asheville Assault had two players called up.

The Connecticut Crush has five players in the National Guard and Reserve that haven't been called up yet. But the team's offensive coordinator was called up, said Melanie Depamphilis, the Crush's owner.

Natalie Hall of the Evansville Express was going to play wide receiver before her unit was called up for duty in the United States.

The players bring two important things with them: previous conditioning and leadership abilities, said Madden.

The Cavalry weren't left out on their own though, said Madden.

Because of the situation that Madden faced, the league scheduled the Evansville team to play their games for Junction City even though they weren't officially scheduled to play until the 2004 season, said Hall. The games counted as exhibition games for Evansville and counted as regular games for the other teams.

Spectrum



Graphic by Steve Brady

Residents flock to annual post celebration

Steve Brady
Signal editor

Celebrating freedom was the agenda July 3 at Barton Field as local residents came from miles around for the annual Fort Gordon Independence Day celebration. Officials estimated 25,000 people attended the event.

“We try to come every year,” said Debbie Nimmons of Evans, who had staked out a good viewing point on Barton Field by 4:30 p.m. “It gets crowded, but it’s a good show,” she said, adding that she had been attending the event every year for as long as she could remember. “There are plenty of police officers and I feel safe here,” she said.

The afternoon was full of activities for the entire family. A day of carnival rides, a petting zoo, military displays,

food concessions and concerts was punctuated by a 50-minute fireworks and laser light show after night-fall.

“We want it to be a good afternoon experience,” said Keith Hazelrigs, chief of services, lodging and entertainment for the Directorate of Community Activities. “We want to provide quality entertainment for the military community.”



Photos by Steve Brady
Clockwise from top: Staff Sgt. Vincent Naputi, Headquarters and A Company, 442nd Signal Battalion, grills food as part of a unit fundraiser. Staff Sgt. Wayne Hunter, 434th Army Band, pounds out the beat as Spc. Jared Bree accompanies him on the keyboard. Kaliah Jackson of Augusta plays in an inflatable obstacle course, one of the many activities for those attending the festival. Sgt. John Young, 1st Battalion, 263rd Armor Regiment from the South Carolina National Guard, helps a youngster out of an M1 Abrams tank. Kalani White feeds a miniature cow at the petting zoo. Sgt. 1st Class Willie Upchurch, A Company, 73rd Ordnance Battalion, shows his daughter Breanna how to use a spotter scope. The scope was part of a display by the 35th Military Police Detachment.